



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine  
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
US Department of Agriculture  
OMB Information Collection  
Approval No.: 0524-0046  
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

## Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

### Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

**Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)**

**Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.**

**Veterinary Shortage ID Code: PA111**

#### Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Pennsylvania

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or

Location of Position:

New Bolton Center, 382 West Street Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

#### Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other : \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time\*)

Employer: University of Pennsylvania

Position Title: Staff

Veterinarian

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☒ Food Safety
- ☒ Public Health
- ☒ Epidemiology
- ☒ Other: Food Animal Medicine & Production Consultant

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The changing views of our society about animal agriculture with regard to animal well-being and antibiotic use have the potential to threaten food safety and security. The objective of this position is to help mitigate this threat. In the last decade our general populace has asked more questions about their food. A ground swell of legislative initiatives is popping up across the country that severely constrains options available to our farmers and in some case put them at a competitive disadvantage. Unfortunately, the logical end to these efforts is the movement of food production off-shore where ironically these well-intended, but short-sighted regulatory initiatives will have no influence. Animal agriculture has been slow to respond to the changing demands of their consumer base. Their inattentiveness to these concerns has accelerated legislative efforts. Our goal is to develop a resource within the veterinary community that can help both farmers and consumers understand the slippery slope that we have put ourselves on and initiate interventions to insure animal welfare along with long-term food safety and security. We see this initiative as extremely important for the sustainability of animal agriculture in the Mid-Atlantic States and will serve as a model beyond the borders of Pennsylvania.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The focus of the activities is to better educate veterinary students, veterinarians, producers and consumers about animal well-being and antibiotic use. Across the nation traditional outreach programs such as, Veterinary Extension programs have been severely depleted. This veterinarian will develop programs that target specific demographic groups and provide information about the realities of animal production. These programs will highlight the challenges related to producing a safe and affordable food supply along with the opportunities and costs of improved on-farm animal welfare. Many species specific quality assurance program, some which also contain elements of animal well-being, are available. However, implementation of these programs is incomplete. These assurance programs fall short with regard to consumer expectations about animal well-being. Initiatives would be developed to help producers attain and document safety, quality, and additional well-being standards. Prudent use of antibiotics in animal agriculture will be emphasized. Finally, an effort would be made to facilitate marketing opportunities where producers can obtain premiums for meeting improved animal stewardship expectations. Preparation of the candidate for achieving diplomat status in the newly formed American College of Animal Welfare will provide the educational background around which this position will be developed.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Challenges addressed by this position reflect a rapidly evolving and prominent issue for animal agriculture. Due to the emergence of this issue veterinarians have not previously been specifically trained nor recruited into this shortage situation. We envisage that this veterinarian will provide a critical resource to food animal producers throughout PA. This veterinarian could especially help fill some of the void of food animal practitioners in rural communities in Pennsylvania. Many of the farms in these underserved areas are smaller, multispecies enterprises which would benefit the most from market opportunities accessible via documented animal welfare and or reduced antibiotic use.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

The failure of farmers to address society's concerns about modern animal agriculture promises to threaten the viability of both individual farms and the animal industries in which these farms serve. In Pennsylvania, several farms as well as livestock auctions have been the target of unsolicited public scrutiny (through legal or illegal means of inquiry). The negative publicity related to the findings of these, often under-cover, activities creates a risk in the market place for these farms or the associated commodity as well as the possibility of legal action. All promise to hamper food production, fuel the need for potentially restrictive laws and ultimately threaten the ability of our country to supply itself with food. Alternatively, the unchecked and naïve zeal for improved animal husbandry practices by fractions within our populace also has the possibility to create a food security risk. The development of a veterinary resource within Pennsylvania to improve on-farm welfare, prudent antibiotic use and to educate consumers promises to decrease the risk to food safety and security created by these societal concerns. These challenges are not unique to Pennsylvania and thus this position creates a model that could be helpful if implemented in other areas or regions of animal production. Furthermore, efforts to prevent domestic agriculture from going off-shore also

promise positive environmental impact as it reduces the carbon footprint of the food we eat and slows the growth of animal agriculture in areas around the world that do not embrace our high expectations for environmental stewardship.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

This veterinarian would additionally be available to provide veterinary services in the case of state or national emergency, as with all of our veterinary personnel at the University of Pennsylvania.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Craig E. Shultz, DVM

Title: Director, Bureau of Animal Health and  
Diagnostic Services

Organization: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Email: crashultz@state.pa.us

Telephone Number: (717) 772-2852 extension 203  
(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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